

Message Text

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17

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-07 /064 W

----- 007409

R 042110Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1854

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 6174

DOD FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:, MILI, BL

SUBJECT: REPORTED BRITISH AND FRENCH EFFORTS TO SELL
MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO BOLIVIA

1. DURING A RECENT SOCIAL FUNCTION THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TOLD ME IN THE PRESENCE OF THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS OFFERING A CREDIT OF 25 MILLION POUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM BRITAIN. HE SAID THAT THE BRITISH DID NOT INTEND TO SELL HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT BUT WERE WIDE OPEN FOR ANY ITEMS THE BOLIVIANS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING. HE SAID THE INTEREST RATES WOULD BE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN SEVEN AND EIGHT PERCENT AND THE CREDIT WOULD HAVE TO BE REPAID WITHIN SEVEN YEARS WITH EITHER ONE OR TWO YEARS' GRACE. HE SAID HE HAD ALREADY MADE THIS OFFER KNOWN TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE BUT HAD NO INDICATION YET AS TO BOLIVIAN INTEREST IN UTILIZING THE CREDIT.

2. IN A FURTHER CONVERSATION ON THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE FRENCH WERE ATTEMPTING TO SELL FRENCH TANKS TO BOLIVIA BUT AS YET HAD
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HAD NO PARTICULAR SUCCESS.

3. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN THAT HIS FRENCH AND BRITISH COLLEAGUES WERE ENGAGED IN SUCH LARGE MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES EFFORTS. I GATHERED FROM HIS CONVERSATION THAT HE MAY BE REPORTING TO BONN, HOPING PERHAPS THAT IN SOME WAY THE BRITISH AND FRENCH EFFORTS COULD BE CONTAINED.

4. WE WILL SEEK TO FIND OUT OVER THE NEXT WEEKS AND MONTHS WHETHER THE EFFORTS OF THE BRITISH AND FRENCH ARE HAVING ANY SUCCESS.

STEDMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAPAZ06174
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760301-0504
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760888/aaaaczob.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED BRITISH AND FRENCH EFFORTS TO SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO BOLIVIA
TAGS: MILI, MASS, BL, FR, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006